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SUNDAY,
MARCH 25, 1956

THE JERUSALEM POST

PRICE: 100 PRUTA
VOL. XXXII, No. 8462

The Land of the Book

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MARGINAL COLUMN

By SHAYA SHAPIRO

COOL reasoning and not blind hope underlies the confidence expressed by the Prime Minister and the Chief of Staff recently on the probable outcome of a renewed conflict with the Arab States. Both said that if Israel were attacked she would suffer great losses, but would emerge victorious when men, not machines, faced each other. The reasoning is based on close observation of facts, not on dogmatic generalities. In this the military minds here frankly follow the line of thought of General Wavell's staff in preparing the campaign against the Arabs in the desert 15 years ago. From the close observation post which is Israel, Arab forces look as tawdry as the ragged robes of actors from the first row of seats in a theatre. Talk of 40 million people straining at the leash to leap at poor little Israel is a whole lot of nonsense. This fiction has been created by Arab rulers—all of whom have come to power either through court intrigues or the machinations of foreign counsellors.

THE "danger" of Israel was invented in order to divert the minds of the people—just as the Nazis invented the "Jewish Menace" to keep the Germans from worrying about their bread and butter. Stalin's regime might have tottered long ago had it not been sustained for years on the carefully nurtured hatred and fear of the United States.

ANOTHER fallacy which is boosted by Abdul Nasser's propaganda machine is that the Arabs can muster an army capable of overwhelming Israel by sheer numbers. One has only to examine the facts to detect the lie. It is generally assumed by military experts that in a modern state one per cent of the population becomes eligible for conscription into the fighting forces. In Egypt this would mean about 250,000 men; in fact, the annual contingent of draftees is, according to good sources, only in the neighbourhood of 45,000. Of these, less than 10 per cent can read or write. Compared with the theoretical annual conscription class of 16,000 men, Egypt's advantage is not so great. There is no more military in the Israeli army and even the immigrants from the most backward countries are given help to overcome their handicaps. It is therefore a reasonable estimate to consider Egyptian personnel potential not more than double Israel's.

THERE are other factors, too. Modern warfare is returning to the medieval art of war, when decision in battle was often obtained by the encounter of armoured knights. Motors have replaced horses, and it takes a people a considerable time to learn to ride the steel stallions effectively. In general, the time needed for a labourer from the Nile valley to learn military discipline and logistics is far greater than the period which goes into the education of an average Israeli soldier. Military observers here do not doubt that, when men face men, the Israelis will not be beaten.

BECAUSE psychology plays an important part in Arab strategy, war might be eliminated by a very simple and economical device: by giving the defendant sufficient arms to make any campaign against himself less tempting. If the Egyptian Chief of Staff does not see the value of victory, he will not give an order to advance. If, however, his superior and colleague, the persuasive Abdul Nasser, succeeds in preventing Israel from obtaining adequate protection, war will be difficult to prevent. Probably what he really hopes for is that the Great Powers will hurry and scurry and commit for three days, until the Egyptians are well in Israel in their initial thrust, and then order a cease-fire and prevent the Israel forces from fighting back. Abdul Nasser would be well satisfied with such an easy conclusion to his great gamble.

Tel Aviv, March 25.

Ya'akov Weissman

Formerly President of the Zionist Federation in Egypt, Deputy Chairman of the Association of Egyptian Jews in Israel.

has passed away.

The funeral will leave from the Municipal Hospital (Hadasah) in Rehov Maze, Tel Aviv, at 2 p.m. today (Sunday).

THE BEREAVED FAMILIES
WEISSMAN
NAJAR

Daytime Curfew Imposed on Cyprus

NICOSIA, Saturday (Reuters).—Cyprus will be under curfew from four o'clock tomorrow morning until further notice, it was officially announced tonight. The curfew will apply to 13 towns and villages, including Nicosia, the capital.

An official statement said the authorities had information that terrorists proposed to use tomorrow's celebration of Greek Independence Day for the purpose of launching a campaign of violence. As the announcement was broadcast, thousands of British troops began to move from their camps all over the island towards the curfew areas.

They put up road blocks and barred wire barriers, ready to go into action as soon as the curfew zero hour strikes. Although the announcement declared that the curfew was until further notice, it was generally held that, unless unforeseen incidents occur, it will be lifted on Monday morning.

Government officials were ordered to stand by at their posts this evening, while Nicosia airport was announcing by radio that it would close down from midnight tonight till Monday morning, the first time it had ever shut down for such a period.

This is the biggest single curfew operation in Cyprus since 1931, following Enochia disturbances at that time. Then the island-wide curfew was applied from dusk till dawn.

The official statement said that arrangements had been made for passes to keep essential services going. Doctors will be allowed to attend urgent cases. Everyone else will be expected to stay indoors until the curfew is lifted.

Today, the British authorities offered a 15,000 award for information leading to the arrest of a 30-year-old Cypriot waiter employed at Government House, who has not been seen since Wednesday, when a time bomb was found in the bed of the Governor, Sir John Harding.

The young man, Neophytos Sophocleous, did not report for duty this morning. He is believed to be in the hands of the Greek Cypriots from the staff of Government House, UP reports. All will get severance pay or pensions. An official statement said that the Government had taken the step reluctantly since the Greeks on his staff had given loyal service. He explained that security considerations prevented his retaining their services.

Meanwhile Greece today raised the Cyprus issue in the U.N. Human Rights Commission, declaring that the "most elementary rights of man" had been abolished on the island.

Israel, Bonn Deny Relations Due

Both the Israel and the West German Foreign Ministries today denied the existence of relations between the two countries.

A spokesman in Jerusalem stated on Friday that recent newspaper stories had no foundation in fact. Since the establishment of relations are not scheduled for discussion, there is no question of any exchange of diplomatic representatives.

The Jerusalem Post correspondent in Bonn, Mr. M. Pines, cabled yesterday that the German Foreign Ministry was denying reports on the imminent establishment of relations, also termed as unfounded. The German Foreign Minister Konrad Adenauer is determined on such action.

The Ministry said that diplomatic relations, although agreed upon in principle and under consideration, are not at present "urgent" for either party, which have agreed to delay the decision until the end of the year. The reports which stated that "informal" Israeli sources claimed that an exchange of ambassadors would take place shortly, are incorrect.

Bonn officials also deny the Ait threat that the relative stability of the past three years is now endangered because of the new wage increase.

Sapir Warns Our Economy Headed for Crisis

HAIFA, Saturday. — The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Pinhas Sapir, today warned the public that the relative stability of the past three years is now endangered because of the new wage increase, higher defence spending and increased immigration.

Speaking at a meeting organized by the local Labour Council's Cultural Department, Mr. Sapir called the new wage rise a "disaster." The debate on this subject was held in the presence of 100,000 people, who favoured the rise argued that inflation is not in sight and that his prognosis is wrong.

Who can believe that prices will stay stable when wages go up? The Minister asked.

Production went up by 19 per cent last year and it was all consumed. Living standards, too, went up during the past three years. Yet exports have not risen in proportion. "Our goods are too expensive and cannot compete in the international market," he said. The local market can no longer absorb the higher production.

While during the three years ending last summer immigration was low, the last 18 months had brought in 50,000 persons. Together with the natural increase of 50,000, this means higher expenditure to cover basic needs. Another 35,000 are to come to the country this year. Desirable as this immigration is in other respects, economically it is a strain.

"I am not certain whether we shall be able to maintain the price level in the face of pressure from many quarters for increases," Mr. Sapir said. "Aid from abroad will not be extended indefinitely. To make up for the \$120m. from Reparations and American grants-in-aid, exports will have to go up by \$250m."

"I am not sure whether we are conducting our economic affairs reasonably as it is necessary to strengthen our position," the Minister stated.

Russia to Offer Aid to Republic of Pakistan

KARACHI, Saturday. — Pakistan this week-end celebrated its emergence as the first Muslim Republic with gorgeous ceremony and popular rejoicings. Suggested Soviet aid came as a birthday gift.

The Soviet Government newspaper "Pravda" wrote yesterday that "the Soviet Government is ready to give Pakistan economic and technical aid and to share its experience in the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes" without strings attached.

And a reception given by the Pakistan Embassy in Moscow, the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. V.M. Molotov, hinted that his country might be willing to give Pakistan aid comparable to the million-dollar steel mill which Russia will build for the Indian Government.

In a broadcast a few hours after his inauguration here yesterday, the new President of the Pakistan Republic, former Governor-General Iskander Mirza, pledged that his country would be "friend of all and enemy of none."

He set out his ideals as peace and democracy, fair play towards minorities, and freedom from fear and want, and declared that "the territorial integrity of Pakistan will always remain an inviolable article of faith."

After the inauguration of President Mirza, the Prime Minister, Mr. Mohammed Ali Jinnah, took the oath of allegiance. His Cabinet is to remain in office and the former constituent assembly is to act as parliament until general elections in a year's time.

Pakistan's 80 million inhabitants celebrated Republic Day with fireworks and illuminations in every town and village, while flags and leaflets were showered down from aircraft.

The Republic like India, remains within the British Commonwealth while not accepting the sovereignty of the British crown. Thirty-two persons were killed last night and 50 injured when a crowd celebrating Republic Day stampeded on a railway bridge at Rawalpindi. (Reuters).

INDONESIA'S FIRST ELECTED PARLIAMENT

JAKARTA, Saturday (Reuters). — Indonesia's first elected Parliament and its new Cabinet today took the oath of office in a ceremony at the Istana Merdeka (Freedom) Palace.

With Bilis or Korans, according to religious faiths, members swore to do their duty "as representatives of the people." The new Parliament will convene on Monday, succeeding the nominated, provisional parliament installed in 1950.

The Syrian and Lebanese Ambassadors in Paris have been officially informed that the anti-French demonstration continues in those countries, Mr. Pines would be unable to carry out his scheduled visits there. (UP, Reuters).

Dulles Urges 'New Attitude' to Asia

WASHINGTON, Saturday (Reuters). — The "report to the nation" on his Asian tour by Secretary of State Dulles today was a strong appeal for better understanding of the much criticized neutralist attitude of Asian leaders.

It was also a very sympathetic exposition of the Asian point of view, obviously designed to create goodwill in Asia.

Mr. Dulles' broadcast was notable for the omission, or at least the soft peddling, of the usual denunciations of the tyrannical objectives of international Communism. He also did not attempt to deal with Middle East problems, now very much the centre of diplomatic activity in Washington.

Secretary Dulles' appeal for Asia of the recent reorientation of Soviet policies around the repudiation of the policies and personality of Stalin.

Mr. Dulles called for a "new attitude" towards diversities of race and culture in Asia. Such diversities, he said, are not measures of superiority or inferiority. "The future belongs to independence, not domination, to freedom, not servitude, to diversity, not conformity. Acceptance of the fact that we create between Asians and ourselves a solid basis for fellowship."

Arabs Ask Delay of U.N. Debate, Claim U.S. Interfering

Syria and the Lebanon yesterday requested postponement of the U.N. Security Council meeting called for tomorrow to discuss an American proposal that Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld be asked to make an on-the-spot survey of the present situation on the Israel-Arab border.

(Indications at U.N. headquarters yesterday afternoon, according to INA, were that the Security Council session will not be postponed but will be prolonged considerably since certain Arab delegations will insist on being heard.)

The request for postponement is possibly due, it was stated by informed quarters at the U.N., to the fact that the military chiefs of the two countries, according to official circles in Damascus yesterday.

It was said that Gen. Shaukat Shukri of Syria, and Maj-Gen. Radi Anab, new Commander of the Arab Legion, mapped out a plan to take action against any violation of the 1950 Declaration. But there is no indication as yet that these ideas have influenced military thinking to any extent.

More Britons To Quit Arab Legion
AMMAN, Saturday (Reuters). — Jordan and British representatives meeting today agreed to recommend further reductions in the number of British officers serving with the Arab Legion. It was officially announced.

Prime Minister Rifai and the British Ambassador, Sir Charles Duke, held talks at which it was learned that Maj-Gen. S.A. Cooke, a senior British officer, was to be replaced by Brigadier Ali Hiyazi.

Today's Jordan communiqué said that both sides at the negotiations agreed to limit British officers to the number required to fill technical and instructional posts.

Col. Mahmud Rasan, Jordan's military attaché in Washington, arrived here last night to take up the command of a tank brigade in the Jordanian army.

None of the British officers still serving in Jordan attended a Legion dinner in honour of King Hussein on Thursday night at Zerk, the Legion headquarters near Amman.

Cabinet Ministers and 300 British officers watched as Maj-Gen. Radi Anab, the new Legion Commander, presented King Hussein with a jewelled baton, and a Field Marshal's baton.

The American draft resolution to be tabled before the Council requests Mr. Hammarskjöld to arrange with the two sides for the adoption of any measures which would reduce existing tensions along the armistice lines. Including the following: 1) Withdrawal of forces from the demilitarized zones; 2) Free freedom of movement for U.N. Observers along the lines, in the demilitarized zones and in defensive areas; 3) Establishment of local arrangements for the prevention of incidents; 4) Prompt detection of any violations of the armistice agreements.

The Secretary-General will be requested to report back to the Council in not later than one month. (Reuters, INA, NHAS).

Exam Leak Leaves Rangoon Without Police
RANGOON, Saturday (UP). — The Burmese capital remained without police protection as the entire police force was withdrawn by its chief in response to the demand of demonstrating students, who were protesting against the killing of a student.

It all started when a leading newspaper, the "Burma Times," published two examination questions before the Government conducted, nationwide secondary school tests were to take place.

The Government cancelled the examinations, claiming that the questions had leaked out.

The cancellation provoked student demonstrations in which the police fired on the demonstrators, killing one and wounding another.

The editor of the newspaper has been arrested on the charge of violating the official secrets act. Prime Minister U Nu, speaking over the State Radio, expressed regret at the student's death.

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Britain Not Willing to Act Alone in M-E

By GEORGE LICHTHEIM, Jerusalem Post Correspondent
LONDON, Saturday. — Following two days of conflicting statements, it is now confirmed that Britain is not in fact prepared to act unilaterally in the event of a Middle East crisis. Action under the 1950 Tripartite Declaration is not expected without American and French assent.

Yesterday's calculated leakages seem to have been intended mainly for the United States, and not for home consumption.

British and American policy regarding Abdul Nasser as the best bet in the Middle East is undergoing painful re-examination both here and in Washington, and this may in part account for the inconclusive nature of the talks on the implementation of the 1950 Declaration.

But there is no indication as yet that these ideas have influenced military thinking to any extent.

Text of Letter
Mr. Eisenhower wrote: "Dear Mr. President, 'Through my friend Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, who is about to visit Israel, I should like to take the opportunity to convey to you my warm personal greetings on the occasion of the celebration of Passover, your historic scene in the U.S. can fall to the eighth anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel.'"

"I have followed with admiration the progress and development of your country. The American people wish your young State peace and prosperity."

"Permit me to assure you that the American Government is earnestly and in the friendliest of spirit, exploring every avenue to bring about a satisfactory and peaceful solution of the problems which confront Israel and her neighbours. We shall all need patience, mutual confidence and goodwill to help us along the way."

With best wishes,
Sincerely,
Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Dr. Silver said in Jerusalem yesterday that "no one acquainted with the political scene in the U.S. can fail to notice the significance of President Eisenhower's letter, which I had the privilege to bring to President Ben-Zvi." Careful study of the letter, he added, would reveal that it was much more than a polite message from one Head of State to another.

It is too often forgotten, Dr. Silver pointed out, that there are many antagonists to Israel in the State Department, especially in the lower echelons. Those who are inclined to underestimate the importance of these circles should know better, now that the Truman memoirs have fully exposed their tactics.

In answer to questions, Dr. Silver, who is chairman of the Board of Directors of the Bond Drive, made a few critical remarks concerning what he considered the failure of Israel's public relations policy. The American public was bound to be confused, he said, when newspapers were full of Israel's request for arms without which the country would be in mortal danger, and at the same time the headlines reproduced statements to the effect that Israel was confident of victory if Egypt were to start a war against her.

Other opportunities, he believed, were lost after the statements made last November.

Egyptian Mine Damages Vehicle

An Israel Army vehicle was damaged by an Egyptian mine yesterday afternoon south-west of Kibbutz Gvulot near the Gaza Strip border, the Army spokesman has announced.

Although the front part of the vehicle was damaged, there were no casualties. The incident took place at 4:45 p.m. Jordanians fired a shot at the Israel post on Mount Zion yesterday morning, narrowly missing one of the sentries.

On Friday night, infiltrators penetrated Kibbutz Urim in the Western Negv. Watchmen opened fire when they tried to break through the wire fence. The marauders escaped without stealing anything.

TIME
Issue: March 26, 1956
ON SALE TODAY
BIG BROTHER: Egypt's leading role behind the curtain of violence and the smoldering hatreds in the Middle East.
CIVILIS: Britain's anxious debate and a badged dawn.
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Ike Tells Ben-Zvi of Peace Efforts

Jerusalem Post Staff
An assurance from President Eisenhower that the U.S. Government is seeking a peaceful solution to the problems facing "Israel and her neighbours" was conveyed to President Ben-Zvi on Friday in a letter brought him by Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver.

Rabbi Silver, long-time former President of the Zionist Organization of America, had arrived in Israel last Wednesday, and was received by a long talk by the Prime Minister on the following day. He has long been connected with the Republican Party of the United States, and President Eisenhower's message last November, when the U.S. President offered a treaty to guarantee the Egypt-Israel border "if the two states will settle their problems."

The letter was delivered at a reception tendered by the President's office. It was signed by the President and was accompanied by a letter from the Prime Minister, to Mr. Leahem.

Mr. Eisenhower wrote: "Dear Mr. President, 'Through my friend Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, who is about to visit Israel, I should like to take the opportunity to convey to you my warm personal greetings on the occasion of the celebration of Passover, your historic scene in the U.S. can fall to the eighth anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel.'"

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Burns in Damascus
Major-Gen. E.L.M. Burns, Chief of Staff of the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization, yesterday conferred in Damascus with Syrian officials on the Security Council proposals for reducing tension on the Israel-Syrian border, the Arab News Agency reported.

Gen. Burns, it was said, will leave for Beirut today to confer with the Lebanese authorities on Israel-Lebanese armistice affairs. He will return to Jerusalem tomorrow.

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